

# MAINE FARMER, AND JOURNAL OF THE ARTS.



"Our Home, Our Country, and Our Brother Man."

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## THE FARMER.

E. HOLMES, Editor.

WINTHROP, SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 27, 1839.

### TO SUBSCRIBERS.

According to the request of a number of our subscribers we propose in the course of the year, to publish occasionally two numbers of our paper per week, so as to have the volume end in December, at the end of the year, as it formerly did. That period seems to be the most proper one for closing old accounts and beginning new ones. We have also some other reasons which induce us to take this course and which we presume will be satisfactory to all. 1st. We have a lot of long communications on hand, such as two reports of the trustees of the Ken. Co. Ag. Society Report of the Winthrop School Committee, one or two addresses on agricultural subjects, besides some valuable extracts, which we have thought would be more acceptable if thrown into these numbers than if published in ordinary course to the exclusion of more variety. 2d. We have been requested by many of our subscribers to publish the laws in the same sized sheet and form as the rest of our papers so that they may be bound with it. One number, therefore, will contain the laws passed during the last session, printed in the desired form. We shall get these numbers out as we can, and do not specify any particular week or weeks when they will appear.

### EXTRACTS FROM AN ADDRESS.

Delivered before the Ken. Co. Ag. Society at their last cattle show and fair Oct. 10 1833, by M. Seavey.

The society voted a request that this address should be published, but as it is somewhat lengthy we have concluded to make some extracts from it only as we think will be most useful and interesting to our readers.

Gentlemen:—The field over which I must travel to collect materials to compose an appropriate discourse for this occasion, has been so often gleaned by those of more experience, greater learning, more acute and penetrating mind than I possess, that I really fear I shall not be able to collect matter that will be sufficiently interesting to repay the attention you may bestow upon my efforts. Should I go back to the early ages, and read you a history of agriculture from its foundation, I should do no more than what has already been done. Should I present to you a disquisition upon its importance and advantages I could only follow the beaten track of others.—Should I attempt to delineate to you the present state of the science in foreign countries and our own, I should find myself travelling in the same path of those that have preceded me. Should I attempt to institute comparisons between different sections of our own country to show the relative advantages and disadvantages of each, I could not advance a single idea that was not brought forth in the very able address at your last annual cattle show and fair. I will therefore come more closely home to the feelings and interest of every one, and treat of the subject of agriculture

as connected with the every day concerns of life.

In the first place I will institute the inquiry, IS AGRICULTURE AN HONORABLE EMPLOYMENT?

It is too much the case in our country, altogether too much the case for a republican people, that men are respected according to the wealth they possess, or the display they make with that wealth. It is too much the case that the scale of human glory and admiration is graduated, not according to intrinsic worth, but by the tinsel glittering of external appearances; and it not unfrequently happens that the base compound of spurious metals exhibit a more brilliant outside than the pure gold. But which is preferred when it is brought to the test—when it is offered in exchange for other commodities, which then is honored with a preference? And when there is an important case to be decided—When any subject is to be left to the decision of men—when soundness of intellect and faithfulness of conduct are to be brought into requisition, are those selected as the arbiters who possess the most wealth or make the most display? In such cases are the external appearances regarded as a guarantee of ability to deliberate coolly, judge soundly, and decide impartially. No, it is then said give us a jury from among the hardy yeomanry of our country, whose minds have been matured in connection with the cultivation of the soil; whose lives have been one continued chain of useful labor undisturbed by the fluctuation of trade and uncontaminated by the caprice of speculation. Here is the true test which should, and which does effectually and substantially, graduate the scale of public confidence and respect. Here is shown most clearly the estimation placed upon farmers. Here is the true test of honor from our fellowmen. This however, is but the honor which comes from our equals. Every occupation is truly honorable in proportion to its usefulness. And every man is truly honorable in that occupation, in proportion to the industry, skill and perseverance with which he pursues it. Where then let me ask, can be found a business that is more useful to the world—that adds more to the amount of wealth—that contributes so largely to the comfort and happiness of mankind as farming?

We then fairly draw the conclusion that farming is not only according to the opinion of men the most honorable of all occupations; but according to the design of the creator of the universe, in assigning to mankind the various uses necessary for their comfort and happiness here below, this was the first and most useful, and hence it takes rank as such in the scale of honor.

### IS FARMING A LABORIOUS BUSINESS?

According to the accounts some would give us, we should at once be obliged to give an affirmative answer to this inquiry. We not unfrequently hear it represented as a life of hardship—a life of incessant toil, severity and deprivation which is very poorly compensated. But an experiment of ten successive years has led us to question these assertions; and as it is our object to investigate for ourselves, instead of taking the assertions of others, we will make a few comparisons between the business of the farmer and those engaged in other branches of productive

industry. In fact we will not stop here, we will take into the account the trader and the merchant. It is a truth which we would not wish to palliate or deny, that for a portion of the year the business of the farmer requires of him close and assiduous application, but there are several branches of mechanical business which requires as close application and is as laborious the whole year through, as the most toilsome part of the farmer's business; which does not last more than one third part of the year. Another third is not required to be more closely occupied, nor is the employment more laborious than that performed by seven eighths of the mechanics, and laborers in our country. And the greater portion of the other third we can throw in to the farmer for the purpose of visiting and entertaining friends and for the enjoyment of all the social comforts of life. While to the mechanic laborer and even the merchant we can hardly allow a single holiday in the whole year—they must be constant and diligent in their application to their business or their interest is materially affected. While the farmer can so arrange his work that he can leave it without the least degree of inconvenience, except at the time of planting or harvesting his crops. And while he can employ the long winter evenings in the improvement of his mind, the mechanic must be plying the implements of his trade at his workshop, and the merchant posting his accounts at his store. Therefore he is not required to be so diligent in his application to his business and taking the whole twelve months together he is not required to perform so much labor as the greatest portion of the mechanics and merchants among us. The business of the farmer too, admits of such a variety of exercise that when one kind of labor becomes irksome or tedious, he can exchange to some other without, in the least degree militating against the interest of his whole business. These changes may be so managed as to be almost equal to rest. Therefore we must conclude from a comparison with other branches of industry that farming is not, taken as a whole, a laborious business.

### IS FARMING A HEALTHY BUSINESS?

By comparing the fine and ruddy countenances and the firm and rugged appearance of a large portion of the audience before me, with the pale and sickly countenances of one assembled in any of our large and populous cities or towns, I might at once come to an affirmative conclusion on this point, and spare myself the task of speaking, and you the trouble of hearing a word further on this part of the subject.

It is so universally admitted that such an amount and variety of exercise in the open and pure air as is required of the farmer, if not a perfect guarantee of a healthy constitution it is certainly conducive to it; while the close and confined air of the workshop and the nauseous vapor of a dense population are destroying the energies and wasting the constitutions of mechanics and traders who are necessarily, for the most part, within our large and thickly settled towns. The bill of mortality too, shows that more farmers arrive at an advanced age than most other classes and that they generally enjoy better health is seldom questioned.

### IS FARMING A PLEASANT BUSINESS?

To him whose soul is callous to the more re-



refined scenes of civilized life—who can see no beauty in the scenery that an allwise Creator has so magnificently spread around us—whose natural senses are so perverted that he cannot taste the sweets of rural enjoyment, the employment of agricultural industry is like the barren heath—he can see in it no form or comeliness. It appears to him only as a drudgery necessary to be performed to procure the means of supporting his animal life. But in proportion as the mind has been cultivated and raised from this state of sensual barbarism—in proportion as the feelings become refined and we can enjoy the social intercourse of society around us, in the same proportion can the mind participate with pleasure and delight in the business of agriculture. And the more deeply the mind enters into the science of farming, the greater will be the pleasure we shall derive from its practice. This may in some degree arise from the fact that when the mind is illuminated by the light of science on any subject it can trace effects to their causes and look further and more deeply into them, and operations can be performed with more certainty and a greater assurance of success. To an enlightened mind it must be a source of no small degree of pleasure to know that besides eating the fruits of his own labor he contributes largely towards the support of others, and adds to the wealth of the nation. The very nature of the employment of the farmer is such that he may derive much pleasure from pursuing it. It will induce weariness and a good appetite, and to rest when one is really fatigued and to eat the viands which nature dictates when one is really hungry affords a pleasure to which too many of the gormandizing idlers of our large cities are strangers.

#### IS FARMING CONDUCTIVE TO THE EXPANSION OF THE INTELLECT?

All our faculties both moral and physical can only be developed and brought to maturity by exercise and use. The fact is to generally admitted to need confirmation that hundreds and thousands of individuals live and die without ever knowing the powers of mind they possess; never being placed in situations to develop them. The mind of man in its natural state has been very fitly compared to a forest overgrown with trees, shrubs and wild plants, which are inhabited by beasts of prey and fowls of night. But the forest by cultivation becomes a beautiful and fertile field, producing every good and pleasant plant, and herb, and fruit good for food yielding seed after their kind. And similar are the effects of cultivation on the intellect of man, the wild and unseemly inhabitants are driven out; the weeds and poisonous plants are rooted up and cleared away and by due process, preparation is made for sowing the seed of true and good principles; which under the auspices of a favorable sun and atmosphere will spring up and bear an abundant crop of social and intellectual fruit.

The farmer can continually trace the analogy between the things in his intellect and the objects around him. At every step, and in every process of his operations, from clearing the rugged forest to the cultivation of the flower garden; is an exact and perfect correspondence with the affections and principles which exist in his mind. Not an animal, from the quiet lamb which skips upon the lawn, to the ferocious wolf which prowls in the thicket, but bears a similar analogy. The farmer therefore while he is diligently plying his hands to labor, can be storing his mind with those principles of true philosophy which alone can sustain him in the most trying scenes of life. In what employment then can we find equal advantages for expanding the intellect, and so beautifully calculated to inspire the reflecting mind with reverence and gratitude for the wonderful power and wisdom, displayed in the whole created universe. The mind, in contemplation can range the wide field of creation, and soar to the unfathomed

mysteries of eternity until it is lost in fruition and then have hardly begun to contemplate the mighty magnitude of God's works. The bounds of the field of reflection are coeval with the limits of omnipotent wisdom, and the principles thus stored up are durable as the mind which contains them. The evenings in winter afford the farmer a favorable opportunity for storing the mind with such knowledge as is most useful in his business, and to become acquainted with the passing intelligence of the day. We must therefore conclude that farming is beyond most other business calculated to develop and mature the faculties of the mind. \* \* \*

#### IS FARMING ESSENTIAL TO THE PROSPERITY OF THE COUNTRY?

On this point I will take the liberty to adopt the remarks of a gentleman at the South made on an occasion similar to the one on which we are assembled.

"Whatever may have been the speculation and theories of writers upon political economy, it seems now to be considered that the earth is the great fountain of all national wealth, and labor the immediate cause. It is from the earth that nations either directly or indirectly draw their means of subsistence and prosperity. It is from this source that the mechanic arts and manufacturers draw the materials for their operations—and from this source also that commerce exists. The great and general employments of mankind are in agriculture, manufacture and commerce. In most countries and in the United States, by far the largest proportion is employed in agriculture. Its importance then is not only shown by its being the foundation of national wealth but also by the large number of persons to which it affords a profitable employment."

Considering the positions we have assumed to be established the inquiry may, with the greatest degree of propriety be made. Is there any business taken as a whole, that combines so many advantages as farming? We feel a triumphant pride in saying there is not. Farming stands at the head of all other employment as the most honorable—the most useful—the most healthy—the most pleasant and most conducive to the development of the faculties of the mind, and of the most importance to the prosperity of the nation of any business in which man can be engaged.

Let us then consider whether our present mode of performing our agricultural operations cannot be improved. Whether we cannot manage our affairs "a little better" than we have done the year that is past. In order to do this it should be our first study to make our crops as productive as possible and to bring them to as high a state of perfection as the climate will allow. To this end it is as important that attention be paid to the soil and situation in which we plant the different crops we wish to raise, as that we regard the different climates in which plants will best grow. We should consider it a sure mark of insanity to see one of our farmers planting coffee, cotton or rice, with an expectation of getting a crop. But it is equally absurd for a man to plant seed in a soil that is totally destitute of properties requisite for its nourishment. Every farmer cannot be a scientific man but there are some general principles—some every day rules which are so fully and clearly laid down by scientific agriculturalists, and so prominently pointed out in all our agricultural newspapers, that farmers can be hardly considered excusable if they remain ignorant of them. Among these are the situations and location of crops with regard to the influence and rays of the sun—free circulation of air—northern or southern exposure—general qualities of the soil as to clay, sand, marl, loam, gravel, slate, lime, moisture, dryness, &c. &c. Considering these points of vital importance to the successful cultivation of every vegetable we raise; perhaps it will not be

amiss for me here to give a few of the remarks of an eminent agricultural writer on the other side of the water, to show how important it is there considered. He says, "It is to the total inattention to this circumstance (adapting plants to soils) that we owe the strange and contradictory results constantly to be found in all Agricultural Reports. No person can read with attention the late accounts delivered to the House of Commons, respecting the growth of corn throughout the kingdom, without being struck with the contradictory returns transmitted of the whole; and without being convinced that there must be some hidden cause for such a diversity in the gains of the farmer: as there are many instances adduced in these reports of the same excellent management where the same seed has been sown, an equal degree of labor performed, with the same seasons, time, and manure employed and one farm has gained three times as much as was expended, while the other has scarcely exonerated and paid himself for putting in the seed: what then could be the cause of the loss of the latter, and the gain of the former? It must, I am convinced, be chiefly owing to the agreement or disagreement of the plants with the soil in which it is placed; its situation and aspect; three things of which the farmer knows but little or even takes into his calculation."

Vegetables in general will not grow in pure earth, or pure water; some plants, however, are so organized as to require only mechanical support from the soil, abstracting their support from the atmosphere by means of their leaves; while others depend almost entirely for support upon the nourishment taken up by their roots from the soil. Although many plants will grow in different soils yet each has its favorite ground in which it will thrive most luxuriously, and come to the greatest degree of perfection. It is much easier adapting the plant to the soil than it is adapting the soil to the plant. It is true that all cultivated plants need some manure, because earths do not generally contain salts and other matters in quantities sufficient to feed plants, especially for a succession of years. But the plant that is natural to the soil requires infinitely less than that which is adverse to it; and may therefore be cultivated in much greater perfection, at one fourth the expense. There are a great variety of soils and in the wonderful order of nature there is some one plant adapted to each and we find quite as many that will thrive well on a poor as on a rich soil. And if each be planted in their own soils they will give an infinitely greater return, and are not subject to those diseases with which we frequently find plants affected. The same writer from which I before quoted says:

"I have repeatedly traced maladies arising from planting in an improper soil that tainted the very means of life in a vegetable; and being constantly accustomed when I heard of any extraordinary crop, to proceed to the place and inquire thoroughly into the causes and management made use of by the farmer, I have generally found the success to proceed from accidentally putting the plants into the ground from which they originally issued and managing it according to the quantum of juices it received from the earth, and with that matter likely to form a proper compound adapted to its wants, in short, attending to the right rules of vegetable economy, and the common process of nature."

But it too often happens in our country that we find the order of things completely reversed. The plant which will thrive best in a stiff clay soil, we too frequently find in sand, and a sand crop in clay, a watery plant put into dry ground and a dry vegetable in a wet soil and so on. Under a course of management of this kind can it be wondered at, that we should experience failures and disappointments in our crops. A plant which delights in a poor soil when put in



to a rich one rots, and one which prefers a rich loam when put into a poor one is starved to death. It is a grand, and in many cases a fatal mistake of most of our farmers, to suppose that all plants can be made to grow in any kind of soil, if it is only manured abundantly, and if they would only be more particular in examining diseased plants, to find out the cause, I think they would be convinced that this is among the most common. "In tracing the various expedients necessary to a plant put out of its natural earth" says my English author "I shall first, mention manure as the most considerable. In proportion as the ground is adverse to the plants, so much the more does the farmer load it with the only remedy he is acquainted with 'dressing' to enable the plants to shoot. If the manure do not afford the juices it requires and which its natural earth would certainly have bestowed, the crop fails. Some time since 'a gentleman brought me some turnip-roots that had failed for several years, and the potatoes had equally been vitiated the preceding year. When I dissected the plants, I found the wood or sap vessels of the root were rotted off and in their stead a number of large bladders of putrid water remained as a sort of swelled or distorted root. But almost all nourishment from the earth was suspended, and the leaves alone retained a sort of life from the nutriment they received from the atmosphere. The potatoes were in nearly the same condition, the roots all decayed not forming any bulbs; but when peas and vetches were planted in the same ground they grew remarkably well. Now this is certainly a proof that a plant can be not only diseased but entirely destroyed by being placed in a soil which does not contain its constituent properties. It also demonstrates to us that the plants of a poor soil can be as much injured in a rich one, as the plants of a rich one in a poor soil. It is not unfrequently that fruit trees are thus injured and where there is cause to suspect such to be the fact, the earth should be removed from the roots and a quantity of poor soil put in its place. An agricultural writer of high standing relates the following in proof of the benefits of manuring to kill the plants that thrive on poor soil. 'A gentleman consulted me to know what he should do with a piece of ground which was so entirely overgrown with coltsfoot that nothing could be raised on it. He had ploughed it five times without the least effect. I advised him to manure it thoroughly with dung; and then the next spring throw on a quantity of fine sand, for the soil was limestone. In two years after this repeating this again he had not a plant of the coltsfoot left, though for five years before, he had been laboring against it without effect; the dung killed the poor plant.' The great and grand principle in bringing plants to perfection is to suit them to the soil and with the situation.

In former times when the only source of manure was the barn yard—before it was known that the principles of vegetable life was contained in nearly all the substances around us and that they could be converted into food for plants and that profitably too, and apology was made for a poor crop on the ground of a lack of manure. In those days of darkness in agricultural pursuits the neglect of ignorance was winked at. But as light has come into the world thou art inexcusable O man! whomsoever thou art that refuses to be guided by that light. In these latter days, the various modes of making manure and rendering subservient to our use and profit, the very substances which we once spent our labor to convey from our premises to get rid of, are so generally and so clearly demonstrated, that farmers now blush to make such an excuse and ought to be equally ashamed to plough more ground than they have prepared manure to enrich. The manure heap is the farmers treasure, and he should

guard it as carefully as he would the little heap of shining ore he has laid by to be called for, only in cases of special emergency. Let the question be put to every one direct. Do you do all in your power to increase your manure heap? Is your hog yard fully and regularly supplied with swamp mud, weeds and other materials for them to convert into manure? Are all the soap suds, dish water and every other liquid that comes from the house carefully deposited either among the materials thrown into the hog yard or in some other way made to increase the heap? Is all the decayed animal and vegetable matter within your reach collected for the same purpose? If these are not the facts with you, if you do not take these means to increase your crops, you are neglecting to collect the gold that is strewed in your path, and you may as well put your money into a pocket with a hole in the bottom, or leave your corn in the barn where the rats and squirrels can live upon it, as to neglect to gather up the means of adding to your crops and your wealth which are so abundantly provided for you. What would be said of the mechanic who should neglect to procure the materials for carrying on his business, when he possesses the same facilities for doing it that farmers do for collecting materials and manufacturing manure; which may be termed the grand lever with which they perform their greatest operations. If your plants are not completely adapted to the soil, you can by applying a proper manure in some degree adapt the soil to the plants.

Original.

#### ROOT CROPS.

*Messrs. Editors:*—Many writers for agricultural newspapers, have, within a few years, treated of the importance of cultivating roots. Some probably have written on this subject who know little or nothing about it experimentally. Experience is the parent of wisdom, and theory without practice makes but a sorry farmer. That the cultivation of roots as food for cattle, sheep and swine, is a most profitable branch of agriculture, is a fact, which few will controvert.

In No 7 of the present volume of your paper, Mr Henry Butman of Dixmont, writes as his opinion, that the potatoe is the most valuable of all root crops, both for man and beast, that they are most easily raised, and that experience has proved to his satisfaction that we can obtain more from this crop, more given nutriment, with the same amount of labor, than from any other variety. The gentleman also denounces the English flat turnip, as almost or quite worthless. The gentleman is, undoubtedly, an intelligent, practical farmer, and his opinions on agricultural subjects, are entitled to consideration; but I may take the liberty of differing somewhat, from his statements above mentioned. His assertion in regard to potatoes, may be partly true, and partly untrue. Potatoes as food for the table, & for making beef, are superior to any other kind of roots. Horned cattle as they are called are more fond of potatoes than any other kinds of roots, & if the appetite of the animal is gratified, he will certainly thrive, for appetite is furnished by nature for a wise purpose. If large quantities of potatoes are given to milch cows, they should be steamed or boiled. For other kinds of animals, other kinds of roots are more profitable.

Now let us speak of the turnip. Of the English flat turnip, I have no better opinion than the gentleman of Dixmont, but the ruta baga is an excellent and nutritious root, a better food for sheep than even the potatoe. On 1-2 acre the last year I raised 16 cart loads: can the gentleman from Dixmont, raise a more valuable amount of food for sheep with the same expense in the form of potatoes? One bushel of potatoes are worth as much as two of ruta baga for making beef; but ruta baga is worth more, bushel for bushel, than potatoes for sheep. The fact

is, animals will thrive best on that kind of food that they best relish.

Now what shall we say of carrots and sugar beets? Mr Young, a distinguished British farmer, proved, as he says, that boiled carrots are more profitable than any thing else, as food for swine. Perhaps he never tried sugar beets for this purpose. It is my opinion that sugar beets will prove to be a most excellent article for making pork in the State of Maine. Perhaps part sugar beets and part carrots, will do better still; for the hog is fond of variety in his diet. Perhaps there are some other kinds of roots, that I have not mentioned, that will prove to be very profitable.

Let no farmer say that he will cultivate but one kind of roots, till he has ascertained for certainty whether such a course is right or wrong.

Rumford, April 1839.

R.

Original.

#### PLOUGHING IN GREEN CROPS.

*Messrs. Editors:*—I have cultivated more land than I could sufficiently manure. I have a piece of land containing about one acre and a half, entirely clear from stumps, stones and all other obstructions to the plough.

It is now in tillage, and the last year I raised a crop of oats upon the same: crop not very large. Perhaps if this piece of land was in grass it would yield 1-2 ton of hay or less, per acre. I am desirous of increasing the fertility of the said field, and I have nearly concluded to sow two crops of Buck wheat the present year, both crops to be turned under by the plough. I have thought that I should follow the same course with this field two years in succession, and then give the result through your columns. Considerable has been said lately in regard to ploughing in crops of clover for manure. Which is best for this purpose, clover or buck wheat? On lands very much exhausted, is not buck wheat preferable to clover, to plough in for manure? On very light soils, is not buck wheat preferable to clover to plough in and enrich the soil? It is said that European farmers have practiced ploughing in buck wheat crops for manure. I have about concluded to try the experiment. I would respectfully call for information upon this subject, and if I am about to pursue a wrong track, I wish you, Messrs. Editors, or some of your correspondents to put me upon the right course.

Rumford, April 1839.

*Treatment of wounds in Horses.*—Wash the wound morning and night with warm soap suds, and anoint immediately after washing, with whale oil.

Having used this remedy for a number of years, at all seasons of the year, I can confidently recommend it to others. It purifies and heals the wound as soon as desirable for soundness; protects it from cold and flies and the hair is always replaced, of the natural color of the animal.—*Cultivator.*

*Forcing Rhubarb.* In our December number, we stated Mr. Knight's mode of forcing rhubarb; and at the same time we directed our gardener to fill a half barrel with roots and earth, and place it in the cellar. About the first of February the tub was taken from the cellar and placed in the back part of a basement kitchen and covered over by another tub to exclude the light. On the first of March the tub was filled with fine blanched stocks of rhubarb, from twelve to eighteen inches in length, upon the top of which the leaf was just developing. The rhubarb not only makes a superior pie, but is said, by medical men, to make a very healthful one.—*Cultivator.*

Bills of the Globe Bank, Bangor are received at the Suffolk.



AN ADDRESS TO THE FARMERS OF  
MAINE.

BY J. H. JENNE.

The following address was prepared for delivery at the Kennebec County Agricultural Society, in October last; but from the final arrangements for that occasion, that duty devolved on another. The writer has therefore concluded to offer the caption, and revise the same for publication in the Maine Farmer; hoping it may be the means of improving the minds of the readers of it, as deeply in reading as it has the writer's in writing the same, with the importance of the principles which it contains.

## Fellow Citizens of Maine:

Business first, and compliments afterwards, has always been a favorite maxim with me, when accepting any trust of public importance, and believing it, as I do in sincerity to be one of the loveliest of the virtues, it would not well accord with that sentiment to deal in what honest Barclay terms lying compliments. The very respectful and kind manner in which my efforts to serve you hitherto,—have been received, have excited in my bosom the most intense feelings of gratitude, and inspired me with ardor to give still stronger proofs of my devotion to your interests.

But though the writer deprecates apologies and compliments on the occasion, he thinks it entirely proper to congratulate his brethren on the pleasing change which has already taken place in the agricultural prospects of Maine. A second independence has taken place. The first, independent of a foreign government for law and protection—the second has rendered us independent of our neighbors for bread.

Here then my friends, as on some lofty eminence, we take a survey of the past, gather and treasure up the lessons of past experience for future care; and from this same lofty summit, *Hope* looks forward and anticipates in visions of holy joy the growing prosperity of this happy country. Here too, *Religion* erects her plain, ungilded but majestic temple, where thousands of ardent worshippers offer up to Almighty God the incense of fervent gratitude for the blessings we enjoy.

Thus much by way of preface—less, we could not well say—more, would be a waste of precious time. We now proceed to the duty before us.

And here we need only advert to the fact, one self-evident, that the science and arts of agriculture is in the rear of all other arts and sciences. Now need we dwell on the reasons which have produced this deplorable result. These have often been ably discussed, and appear to have produced effects. Unfortunately, however, the impression has been, and is too much the case now, that there is little scope and employment for the mind in the business of farming. To show the nature and effects of this error and the advantages of a different sentiment in its practical results, is the design of this address. And we propose for this purpose to illustrate the following topics.

Firstly, we shall take a brief survey of the structure of the human mind and the master springs of human conduct, to show the necessary connection between mental and physical power in the practice of this art.

Secondly, we shall take a survey of some of the most important branches of this art, and give some practical illustrations to show the extent of range it comprehends, in which the powers of the mind are equally employed with the body.

Thirdly, we shall more fully consider under this head, that part of our subject which relates to economy in all the operations of farming, by practical examples, and mathematical calculation.

Fourthly, we shall attempt to elucidate the advantages resulting from the practical opera-

tions of the principles embodied and illustrated in the foregoing general proposition.

Fifthly, close with some valedictory addresses.

We well remember what a shrewd farmer once said in our hearing "some people's heads are like a sieve, let all through but the bran." We hope better things of our readers, and trust they will give us not only a candid hearing, but treasure up the truths we shall endeavor to impress on their memories and explain to their understandings. We deem them to be of immense importance to you, and your temporal prosperity to depend under providence in your improvement of them.

Proposition 1st. Structure of the human mind, &c.

Man unites in his constitution two natures, physical and moral. For his physical nature we can readily understand the use of culture and discipline. If you are ready in the use of a pen with your right hand and shift the same into your left, you instantly perceive the difference. Employ two persons to mow—one of them has long been in the habit of using the scythe the other has not—the difference is noted by the most careless observer. We hold the discipline of the mind equally important; and even in acquiring the dexterity in the use of man's physical powers of which we have been treating, the co-operation of the mind is essentially, if not indispensably necessary. We will give a practical illustration of this. A person wished a young man in his employ to make shingles for him, who had never made any himself, or seen any made. The young man requested his employer to show him how to make them. I will said he, taking two shingles in his hands and placing them in contact, "you see," said he, by these shingles, to what shape a shingle must be brought to lay well in a bunch or on a building. Begin and shave two shingles and never lay them aside until they perfectly agree with the rules I have given you; and when you have learnt to shave shingles well, you may then learn to shave fast. The young man obeyed his directions, and the first bunch of shingles he finished was pronounced by competent judges a specimen of superior workmanship.

In this simple operation we see the advantage of method or science connected with art to acquire knowledge. The human mind is not capacious enough to embrace a number of details at once, but must seize on, and improve one at a time, until it comprehends the connection of the whole. We see this, and the striking affects of it, in the case of the young man we have introduced in this simple illustration. He became master of the business almost at once, whilst others who had made their thousands, acknowledged the superiority of his workmanship, and attributed it to his surprising ingenuity. This ingenuity was probably nothing more nor less than calling in the aid of system, in acquiring knowledge. But the discipline of mind implies something more than merely employing it for the purpose of arranging facts among one subject so as to enable us to observe a knowledge of it. The human mind is so contracted, (if we may use the expression) that it needs a balance wheel to regulate its movements. To illustrate this we will refer to some of the master springs of human action. Curiosity is one of these. Love of excitement another or perhaps (philosophically speaking) a modification of the same. Love of social life is another, with some others we might mention. These are stimulants, and where they meet with no check they urge the mind forward with inconceivable velocity of action and frequently produce disastrous results. To check this velocity, Infinite Wisdom has implanted in the human mind the faculty of reason which like the balance wheel in machinery regulates its speed so that all its movements proceed with the most

beautiful harmony. When these elements of action in the mind are brought to operate with that harmony of which, when properly regulated, they are susceptible, the mind takes the best possible position for useful action in all the circumstances of life.

And there is no class of people, who need this balance of mind more than the farmer, in its best disciplined state. In many of his operations he has to look far ahead for the profits of present labor; and has to trace the results of present plans and calculations, through long periods of assiduous applications, and with untiring zeal. If he has an unstable mind the result in his business must have a most disastrous effect, and render all the efforts of the strongest natural powers unavailing; except it be to hoist more sail to dash his fortunes o'er the billows of tempestuous passions, against the rock of disappointment, and hopeless despair.

Our second general proposition is, to make a survey of some of the most important branches of this art among us, and give some practical illustrations to show the extent of range it comprehends, in which the powers of the mind are equally employed with the body.

1. A knowledge of the nature of the different soils of which the crust of the earth is composed, is indispensable to a successful prosecution of this art. Sand, clay and lime are the three principal ones, which with the vegetable matter in a state of decomposition form the mould or loam in which the process of vegetation is carried on. Now it must be obvious to any person who observes the process of agriculture, that on some soils, one application of manure will last four times as long as on other soils. We have now in our minds eye some interval lands to which manure has been liberally applied and the cultivation has been good; and yet in about two years after it is laid down to grass, it binds out, and needs a new recruit as much as ever. We have also in view some other land to which manure has been applied in less quantities; and yet the effects has lasted several years. Here an important enquiry arises, what is the cause of this? This query leads us to consider the theory of the operation of lime as we believed ascertained almost to a demonstration.

First, lime operates mechanically to improve the texture of soils. Sandy soils it renders more adhesive; and clayey soils less so. Second. But a more remarkable and at the same time a more careful property is, the power it has to combine with the fleeting substances of fermenting putrescent manure, and holding them in the soil secure from wasting, until, by the attraction of the roots of grain, plants or some other cause, they are set at liberty to furnish food for plants as they are needed. In this respect, they operate as a savings bank to serve that which is not needed for present use; and substances too, of the most fleeting nature, and lays them by securely for future use. Third; it decomposes inert vegetable matters in the soil and bring them into more immediate use, and thus fills the ground again, by the vegetation and more rapid growth of new plants, with a greater supply of living vegetable matter; which when buried by the plough, gives increased fertility to the land; especially if aided by a moderate and judicious use of lime, at suitable intervals. Fourth. It renders wheat plants and some others less subject to disease.

2. It requires knowledge as well as labor to prepare lands for the plough. And though the operations of removing rocks and stumps, are as simple as any of the operations of agriculture, yet where the obstructions are formidable, it requires no small degree of skill to perform it to the best advantage. But there is one very necessary process which comes under the this head which seems not to be well understood, and excites but little interest. I mean that of draining. Some little experience



has taught us, that there is no one process in all the operations of agriculture, which requires greater skill than judicious and thorough draining. Our efforts hitherto seem to have been confined to merely carrying off the surface water; and that too with very little skill and judgment. But it must be clear to any one who pays strict attention to the subject, that we have vast quantities of land where no surplus water generally appears on the surface, are yet rendered cold and sterile, by moisture beneath the surface and above the subsoil. Many instances may be found, also, where considerable bogs and morasses might be drained with a small outlay of labor and be rendered highly productive and profitable. Let any one think seriously on this subject and if he does not find scope for the best informed and strongest mind, we are utterly mistaken.

And as we consider fences as coming under this head we may properly allude to the subject of live hedges. The scarcity of fencing timber begins to be seriously felt in some places and where rocks are scarce, the formation of durable fences is an object of considerable importance. We look with intense interest to experiments of this kind, and hope our friends will be awake on this subject.

3. The next thing after the soil is prepared is a knowledge of the adaptation of different vegetables to different soils—a judicious rotation of crops—the selections of the best seed;—improving different varieties by crossing one kind with another, and introducing new varieties from a different climate. Also producing new varieties from the seed as the potato. Each of these opens into a new field of enquiry, and requires a vast fund of knowledge to prepare us for a correct practice.

It is curious to observe what remarkable improvements Horticulturists have made in the beauty and variety of flowers by crossing; and who can tell but that as great improvements may be made in the beauty and products of the grain. All our grains in a wild state were far inferior to what they are now; and who will pretend to set limits to their possible improvement. And finally, each of the particulars above named would require a distinct lecture to unfold the value of a correct knowledge of each in the practice of husbandry. We can only give outlines; you fellow citizens must fill them up.

4. Saving of human labor, also, requires a distinct illustration. Much has already been done in this department, and almost every branch of manual labor, has been lessened by rendering science tributary to it. But, besides those improvements which by their magnitude, delight and astonish mankind by their magnificent results, and which are so obvious in their effects as hardly to need illustration. There are in the daily concerns of life, instances almost hourly occurring, in which a person might save a few minutes, by some contrivance of his own to abridge labor. Let a person but accustom himself in every business he undertakes, to ask himself the question, is there no way to do this better or quicker, and improve the answer which his reason may give to the best advantage, and he would soon realize results the most auspicious to his prosperity.

5. An extensive and critical knowledge of the peculiar properties of the different kinds of manure a farmer uses, and their adaptation to different crops and soils, is no small attainment. And the use of such a knowledge must be of incalculable benefit in practice. It is obvious, also, that the practice of most farmers presents almost daily instances of neglect too culpable to be tolerated in a being possessed of the faculty of reason. The cause of this however arises, generally, from the fact that they have never counted the worth of those substances in the processes of farming. Let them set down and apply a moderate share of common

sense to their calculations, and sum up the whole in one total; and then if they do not plead guilty to the charge, we are no Yankee for guessing.

6. Slack husbandry comes in, too, for a distinct consideration under this general head. The farmer needs a critical knowledge of the various breeds of cattle and their distinct qualities as adapted to different acres. He needs, also, a knowledge of the diseases to which they are subject and the best means of treating them;—also of the adaptedness of different kinds of food for their usual feeding or fattening them, and an accurate knowledge of the difference of expense in feeding with each kind. The farmer also wants to know the difference between raw and cooked food and also a knowledge of the tastes and habits of his cattle of every kind arising from local causes, which he can acquire only by practical observation. He or his wife or both ought to know all about the dairy business and the different profits of each branch, not only in general; but with reference to their peculiar circumstances. The training of his working cattle requires a share of skill equal to any branch, and as important to successful operations as any other. Combine these all together and they produce an aggregate of no small amount.

7. The farmer wants an accurate knowledge of the principles of agricultural and domestic economy and a tact acquired by practice of applying them to the daily occurrences of life.

This knowledge is like ready change, a currency in trade; let our funds in general be ever so large, we want ready change. And though the result of each saving is small, yet as a multitude of small streams united soon form one of magnitude so these little savings accumulate until they produce an overwhelming result. This process most clearly demonstrates the maxim, that knowledge is power. In these savings almost wholly the effects of the discipline of the mind under consideration. Thus we have endeavored to elucidate some of the branches of farming business to show the extent of the range it affords for the employment of the mind. There are still some others equally important, which had we time we might discuss, such as orcharding—the particular method of sowing, planting, getting hay—the arrangement of the divisions of the farm—the location of the buildings, &c. but to do this would require a volume. We must pass along.

Third general proposition. This is to consider more fully what relates to practical economy in the business of farming and illustrate the same by practical examples and mathematical calculations. And here it may be well to illustrate the general principles, on which such calculations are founded. In order to deduce these principles, and apply them correctly, it is necessary for us to consider that, in every civilized community, there is a certain something called capital, which with the necessary skill, forms the basis of all business transactions. And there is also a certain something called money, which constitutes the medium of trade and which, for the facility that it affords to business or trade is considered as worth a certain price for its use annually. This with us is six cents on a dollar. This price we consider the value of it as money for general uses; and when applied to farming, if a farm, the stock and tools, or cash to carry on the operation, should amount to one thousand dollars, & if the income was only sixty dollars a year the farmer gains nothing by the investment; for it is worth that or will produce that income as money for general uses.

In older countries, where capital has long accumulated, the distinction between capital and labor is more prominent; and are kept more distinction in the operations of agriculture. Here the most of our farmers own the soil, and perform the most of the labor within their own families. Hence as they have no one to settle with

for the labor, they seldom keep any account of it, and thus are entirely ignorant of its amount. This however we consider as a part of the capital as much as though he paid for it in cash, for he can labor for others, and have such a price a day or otherwise as he agrees, or as custom gives him, and he gains nothing by applying it on his own farm unless, in some way, he gains more than he would to labor for others.

We see then from the foregoing statements, that in order to determine the profits of carrying on the business of farming, we must estimate the value of the farm the appurtenances and stock belonging to it at its value in cash, with the tools and all the labor, and all other disbursements for the purpose of carrying on the business of it and then add the interest to this and enter this on the debtor side of the account. We must then credit the establishment with all the income derived from the farm distinct from all other whatever: and then the balance will show the net profit of the farm. And if we wish to ascertain the profit of any particular branch of business, or the profit of any particular crop, or animal, or any other thing, connected with our business, we must proceed in the same way.

We will now suppose a case to show how these principles operate in practice by mathematical demonstrations. A. and B. each have a farm, which with the stock and tools is worth \$1000. Both of them performed the labor themselves, which we will suppose to be equal. But A by reason of greater skill and economy gains six per cent annually and adds it to his capital; which B. loses in the same ratio. In twelve years, or a small fraction less, A. has \$2000 and B. 500; In another twelve. A has \$4000, and B. \$250. In another twelve A. has \$8000 and B. \$125.

But the result we have given above is more favorable to the losing farmer than what generally takes place in practice. It is too commonly the case, that bad calculations on the farm produce other difficulties which hasten his descent down the steep of bad management into the yawning gulph of poverty below.

And here we will observe, that though the results above stated appear so striking; yet perhaps the first two or three years a casual observer would hardly notice the difference, being the result of a thousand little savings and losings, which though they accumulate slowly at first, soon deepen and widen their channels until the above astonishing results are produced. We are well aware our calculations may be disturbed by causes beyond our control. But this detracts not in the least from the value of the principles we inculcate. We will therefore proceed to some details showing how such a result may take place as above described.

Suppose a person keeps three cows. Now if he can, by getting cows of a better breed, or better ones of the same, which with the same keeping will give one quart of milk more a day for three hundred days in a year, and this milk is worth one cent a quart; we find the nett profit from the three cows increases nine dollars in a year: or the interest of one hundred and fifty dollars for a year.

Again suppose a person to save half an hour a day by some contrivance to save labor for himself and working animals; and we allow him to labor three hundred days in a year and his oxen or horse seventy-five; here is a saving of three hundred and seventy-five half hours, and at only seventy five cents a day amounts to thirteen dollars and fifty cents in a year, or the interest of two hundred and twenty five dollars in a year.

Again we will state a fact within our own knowledge. A person who had an extensive range of woodland connected with his pasture very frequently had to spend an hour or two looking for his cattle, and besides this sometimes the cows laid in the woods without milk-



ing, which injured them in giving milk. This person by giving his cattle salt at night when first turned into the pasture in the spring soon learnt them to be punctual at the outlet of the pasture every night and thus made a saving in time and milk of five or six dollars a year.

Now if we look back at the various branches of business, which a farmer does in a year, and calculate all the possible savings he may make and add them all together, we shall have the aggregate of what benefit the proper exercise of the mental powers has in the result of his labors.

The fourth general proposition is, to elucidate the advantages resulting from the practical operations of the principles embodied in the foregoing propositions; and—

Under this head we propose to treat of those results more immediately connected with the welfare of the community, the results as far as concerns individual pecuniary interest, being already established. And we observe—

1. It will render us a community less dependent on others for the necessities of life; and by retaining in the State those immense sums heretofore sent abroad most needlessly for bread-stuff at home; it will increase our capital for other purposes. Much has been said about encouraging strangers to bring and invest capital in manufactories &c. in this State. We say our principles fully carried out in practice, will create this capital, or rather draw it as by the power of magic to any amount we may need.

2. It will render us as individuals more happy; and thus increase the general happiness of the community. It will tend to make people better neighbors—will heighten the pleasures of social intercourse; and furnish endless topics for conversation in social circles.

3. We consider our principles if adopted in practice will have a salutary effects on our moral and religious interests. They will create a relish for wholesome industry; and banish from society those vices upon creation, the dandies and spunkies of the times. To the benevolent engaged in every enterprise for ameliorating the condition of man it guarantees the funds necessary for accomplishing every thing to which benevolence may prompt them.

4. These principles carried into practical operation, will enhance our fame as a community. New England already occupies high ground in the estimation of the most enlightened among mankind. We only need to press forward in the concerns well begun and we shall assuredly reach a still higher rank in the estimation of mankind. Our moral principles need it is true, correcting and refining; and we know of nothing besides the renovating power of the Holy Spirit, that promises to effect so much good for the human family. And we believe the benevolence of the Deity in performing his purposes of grace and mercy to the fallen family of man, will employ these very principles as auxiliary means in accomplishing the same.

5. These principles put in practice will better qualify us to perform our duty as citizens of a free country, and insure the continuance of our free institutions. It is the enlightened, the sober and considerate yeomanry of the country that form the greatest barrier against corruption and profligacy and to whom we may look with confidence for dutiful submission to law and devotion to good order.

6. The consequence would undoubtedly be, to throw back the curtain which spreads many of the mysterious operations of nature from human vision, and settle many interested parts in the practice of husbandry; and render its processes more certain and uniform.

And finally we believe these will constitute some of the striking features of the grand millenium of universal happiness, so devoutly anticipated by the humble and devout christian in all ages. They constitute an integral part of pure and undefiled religion for the command

which inculcates a fervent spirit likewise says be diligent in business; and our blessed Savior when he fed the multitude, gave an example, both of economy and benevolence.

Fifth general proposition. A few valedictory remarks will close what we have to communicate on this occasion.

And first, to those of my friends, who like ourself have been unfortunately, for want of experience scratching and scraping with indifferent success; but now sensible of our real situation; are determined, if possible, to find out the errors of our practice and amend them: Perhaps you have been sensible for some time your practice needed amending and have been struggling with various success to improve your condition. Some of your neighbors, perhaps, have noticed your efforts, and seem disposed to give you full credit for all your mistakes. And you have been looking prematurely for splendid results immediately? when reason would teach you a different lesson. Remember the path of improvement is uphill; and you must not expect to reap at once the fruit of your labors. And besides, you must not, in determining the improvement of your practice, look at the premises of that thrifty neighbor of yours, who has every thing as neat as a pink. He has long experience—has been bred to the business, and only taught economy in all the departments of his profession. You must look to him for example; and adopt every thing in it, which will bear the scrutiny of a rigid examination. Further than this, we would not advise you to follow him; for it is indispensable if you aim at excellence, to exercise your own reason in scrutinizing the practice of the best farmers we have. For, as a distinguished agricultural writer observes, the errors of such men lead more astray than the errors of those whose general practice is decidedly bad; for no one thinks of looking to the latter for example.

Secondly. To those of our friends possessed of the advantages of a superior education, and who have generously devoted these advantages to aid the cause of agricultural improvement. We tender you our cordial thanks for your disinterested efforts to advance the best interests of your beloved country. And though you do not need the acknowledgement from us for your sakes; it is nevertheless as much your due; and it is our privilege to express our obligation to you on this occasion.

Thirdly. To those of our aged brethren, who have long borne the burthen and heat of the day as pioneers in the march of social improvement. We tender you our cordial thanks. Venerable Sires farewell. And may that same benign and merciful Providence which has hitherto crowned your labors with such signal success, cheer your pathway to the grave with the light of his countenance, and you rest in Abraham's bosom forever.

Thirdly. To my middle aged friends now in the course of successful action. As we are now in the infancy of empire, as well as improvement it may be expected the seeds of good or evil sown now, will yield a vast crop in all future time. We expect much from you; for you are the most efficient laborers now. Be diligent in this good work; and labor with an energy worth of the cause you have espoused. Oh sow the good seed now, and heaven add the blessing to your yell directed Zeal.

Fourthly. To my young friends now preparing for, and just entering upon the stage of action. Our bosom swells with feelings of unutterable emotion, when we consider that on your improvement of the talents heaven has committed to you, the welfare, not only of this State and country, but that of the whole world, may for ages essentially depend. 'Tis precious seed time with you now. Will you improve in sowing those good seeds which will not only bear good fruit in time; but whose fragrance shall cheer the bowers of paradise forever.

Fourthly, and lastly. To female readers, especially those who are mothers. Though we solicit your assistance last it is not the last in our esteem. We need your help in this great work. Nay it is indispensable. It will be in vain we toil without your care and economy within doors, and your smiles to sweeten our labors. All the reasons we have urged upon our brethren, for the acquisition of useful knowledge apply with equal force to you; for

Though with shovel, as wide, as ever was plied,  
We fill up the box and the bin,  
Imprudence no doubt, can spoon it about,  
As fast as we shovel'd it in.

Ye tender mothers, of Maine. We know you love your children. You love your State and country too. Say not, "We are feeble, our efforts can do no good." Feeble as you may think yourselves, heaven, has given you an influence on the destinies of the human family which you little suspect. Will you teach your little sons to love agriculture, and little daughters domestic duties. Will you break the chains of fashion, that inexorable tyrant, which holds many of your sex in such cruel and abject slavery, at the risk of their own lives and also perpetuating hereditary debility to their posterity to all future time. Will you teach your daughters to perform those duties which now devolve on you, that of mothers, and qualify them to minister relief to the sick and dying, and be the means to many of "making a dying bed feel soft as downy pillows are." Farewell! Farewell!

Original.

#### CULTURE OF POTATOES.

Messrs Editors:—As there is a diversity of opinions among farmers respecting the culture of potatoes, and particularly the seeding, I am induced to say a few words, and if you think them worth noticing, you can make them public.

First. What kind of seed is best? I have experimented more or less for fifteen years, and am convinced in my own mind, that large potatoes, cut once or twice, are the best. Since adopting this method I have got much the largest crops, and my potatoes do not diminish in size or quality. June 4th, 1835, I planted one acre of pasture ground; carted on 15 loads of coarse manure; harrowed it well, and planted, on the 7th, 23 bushels of potatoes,—the large ones cut lengthwise, and those of middling size were dropped whole; the rows 3 1-2 feet apart, the potatoes dropped from 18 to 24 inches apart. I had but one acre, and the product was four hundred and twenty-five bushels.

In 1836, the same ground was planted to corn, and the crop was light; 10 loads of dressing spread. In 1837, I sowed two bushels of bald wheat, and harvested 41 bushels of wheat. In 1838 my hired man judged there was at least 4 tons of hay from the above mentioned acre.

Excuse my leaving the subject; and to return; my crops of potatoes for 5 years have been from three to four hundred and twenty-five bushels to the acre. In 1833, I planted 1 1-4 acre to potatoes. The ground was broken up in the fall of 1835, and the next spring cross ploughed, harrowed and sowed to wheat, with 10 pounds of clover seed. The product over 30 bushels to the acre. After the wheat was harvested, 10 common loads of old manure was spread, and in 1837 sowed to wheat again, the product was 23 bushels per acre. In 1838, 15 loads of manure was evenly spread; cross ploughed, harrowed, and 23 bushels of potatoes planted similar to the first mentioned acre. The product was 500 bushels.

I cover my potatoes quite shoal, not more than one or two inches deep. Generally plough and hoe twice, and hill up but little. The ground should be as light as possible about the hill. I am satisfied that spreading manure is better than potting it in the hill.

L.  
Guilford, April 1, 1839.



Original.  
WORKING COWS.

That many "old things are passing away" and many new things and customs are taking their places, is becoming demonstrable, and may be witnessed throughout the whole agricultural portion of the country; and that there are many improvements yet to be made is beyond a question,—and why cannot the *working of cows* be considered one of these improvements?

We know it is hard to get an unbiassed hearing when we preach, (and we are hooted at when we practice,) against an established custom.

Once was the time when it was hard preaching against the false economy of putting a stone in one end of a bag that contained a family grist, to balance the grain that was all put into the other end of the same bag.

Working cows may by some be considered the extreme of ultraism; well, be it so, then, are none so blind as those that won't see?

I have a few reasons to offer why cows may be made more profitable than they now are, without much additional expense to their owners.

Many people who keep two or more cows do not want oxen but a small part of the year, and such can do the principal part, if not all their ox labor with their cows.

Cows have been worked, and why cannot they be worked as well as mares that are pregnant, or those that give support to their offspring.

I do not wish to be understood that it is advisable to put cows at all times to the yoke to perform labor with or like the ox, but they can do the common jobbing work of a small farm. It requires but little labor to break them so that they will work perfectly kind; and should it be found on trial that cows can perform much of the work that many old horses are kept to perform, it must serve to increase the neat stock of Maine, and rid her citizens of many useless, expensive, taxable horses.

Give working cows good keeping, which they should always have, work or no work, and they will do to work eight months out of twelve, and a part of their extra earnings should go for their better keeping.

It has become very fashionable of late years, for many half-way farmers to have half a dozen or less of ordinary horses to rig out a horse team when ox work is to be done; one cause, without doubt, of the increase of horse teams is the extraordinary high price of oxen and ox labor;—oxen have become scarce, and he who should keep two cows, will now sell one to buy an old horse, and this horse will eat, if he can get it, about as much as two cows;—he soon grows lame and decrepid, and then it is as the old song has it, "Poor old horse, let him die," and instead of being fit for the beef barrel, he is a total loss to his owner; whereas, if it was an aged cow, that must ere long yield to the grim messenger of death, she would in some degree go down to the beef barrel with pleasure, instead of ending her days like the poor old horse, in grief, sorrow, and starvation.

Again, you may take the whole range of mothers through this wide world, whether four legged or two legged, and without a moderate degree of exercise their health is precarious; and at certain seasons their lives are actually endangered for the want of such exercise as serves to keep the organic system in proper order.

I have never known the same trouble to take place in mares that "C. B. A." speaks of as frequently occurring with cows, and I presume we should not hear of its happening to cows if they were worked as a merciful man would work them.

There are some farmers who need not be to the trouble of working their cows in the yoke

for sufficient exercise; and need I tell you who they are? They are those who neglect one of the first duties of a good farmer—that is, to provide water for his cattle in the yard or near his barn.

I say there is no need of working cows when they must go a mile or two to get water, at times when any sober man would be in danger of unroofing his upper story for want of a sandy foundation; or as the drunken man said, when he was down on the ice and could not get up, "The wicked stand on slippery places," but I-I-I ca-can-can't st-stand-stand a-at al-l all.

E. G. B.

Original.  
THE EXPENSES OF WAR.

Messrs Editors: I propose at this time to mention a few small items in the account of moneys expended to support the war system.

The wars which grew out of the French Revolution, occupying a period of 22 years, cost Great Britain five thousand millions of dollars. This sum is altogether beyond our conception; If it were all in silver, it would weigh 156,250 tons; and the interest of it at 6 per ct. is three hundred millions, or 9,375 tons a year or 570 dollars a minute.

England lavished on Lord Wellington for only six years services, nearly five million dollars,—over 2,000 dollars a day. In 20 years ending 1817 she expended an average of 1143, 444 dollars every day,—or 47,643 dollars every hour, or about 800 dollars every minute. And this for 20 years for war alone. To carry on their wars, which were all necessary,—all being in self-defence, as they would have the world believe, they have incurred such an enormous public debt, that to pay the interest of it, every thing their subjects eat, drink or wear; almost every nameable article, they are compelled to buy, is so taxed that their poor subjects for ages to come, must go supperless to bed, and the rich be deprived of half their income.

And if the sons of Columbia wish for the same blessings, they have only to continue to encourage a military spirit, and keep up the demand for military glory, and success is theirs.

'Tis true, in a country like ours, where the people are more intelligent, they would not be so easily deceived and led into the snare;—but this only renders it necessary for the advocates of war, the lovers of glory and the loaves and fishes of the war and navy departments, to be a little more cautious and wily in advocating war, and in extending the system. They know they must satisfy the people that their rights are in danger, or their national dignity insulted, which has heretofore been no very difficult task.

Take a few other items. The expenses of a single war-ship in actual service is more than a thousand dollars a day; and there are, in christendom between 3 and 4000 such ships. The wars of Christendom for 22 years ending 1815 cost barely for their support, besides many times more for incidental losses, about fifteen thousand millions dollars;—about six or eight times as much as all the coin in the world. Will any one say that these remarks do not apply to us? Let such look at the following facts, and remember that we are only in our 63d year as a nation, and see if we are not making fearful strides, in the same chase after military glory. The expenses of our last war are computed at 200 millions, and that the loss of trade, navigation and fisheries &c. amount to as much more, making 400,000,000. But lest that sum should seem extravagant, take one half of it viz. 200 millions, which if all in silver would weigh 6250 tons;—the interest of which is 120, 000 dollars a year.

In 40 years, ending 1832 our entire expenses were more than 842 millions of which only one twenty third part were for civil offices.

In 18 years, ending 1834, a period of peace, we paid for war purposes alone nearly 400,000, 000, and less than one sixth of that sum for all the peaceful operations of government. I repeat, that in time of peace, we paid in 18 years about 460 millions of dollars in all, and less than one sixth of it went to defray the expenses of the civil government.

The war system costs us in one way and another, more than 50 millions a year, even in peace; a hundred and thirty seven thousand dollars every day; averaging for every family of six persons, an annual tax of 20 dollars as a tribute to the god of war.

True, this sum is not taken directly from the people in the form of a tax, (if it were for any other object however good, it would give rise to a civil war,) but which amounts to just about the same thing, it comes out of the revenue; and however the revenue may be raised, it comes out of the people, as much as though it was done directly by taxation.—It is money which belongs to the people collectively and ought to be expended for their good.

But let us come still nearer home, to our own time. The expenditures of our government during the past years, were a little more than 40,000,000, dollars and about four fifths of this went to support the war and navy departments; while only about one fifth was necessary to defray the civil expenses.

Your readers are doubtless familiar with the history of the disgraceful war that our government is now prosecuting with a handful of Indians in Florida, at an expense of a thousand dollars an hour, in which every Indian and Squaw old and young that has been killed or taken, has cost our government more than 10, 000 dollars a piece.

Look at another fact,—the military academy at West Point, N. Y. which was burnt a few months since and the loss stated to be 50,000 dollars, was established by our government for the purpose of educating young men for the military service of the U. S. and from recent investigations it appears that the education of all who have entered the service from that institution, has cost the government over 6,000 dollars a piece. In this calculation the loss of 50,000 dollars is not included.

Now, for what purpose is all this enormous expense? For the protection of our lives, liberty and property.

A strange way surely for a government to save the lives of its subjects—to learn them to kill: to inspire them with a martial spirit, to inflame their minds with a love of military glory, which has been the real (though perhaps secret) cause of more bloody wars than any other motive whatever.

This martial spirit is very inflammable; the least friction,—the least insult, real or imaginary will ignite it and light up the torch of war.

A singular way to insure property,—give a thousand dollars,—to insure one?—No; worse still;—to increase the risk of losing the whole, and with it all that can render property valuable, or life desirable.

A beautiful way to secure liberty,—to expend nine tenths of our revenue to rear a military despotism over our own heads!

It is as clear as the noonday sun, that the nations which have made the greatest preparations of this kind for defence, have suffered most from war, in life liberty and property. I suppose however that this is all made up in glory.

I repeat it as my firm conviction (and I think it will not be doubted,) that if our liberties are ever subverted, they will be sacrificed to the god of war on the very altar which we are rearing with our own hands,—with our own money,—with our own influence.

Vassalboro'. E. F.

In business be punctual and prompt.



## POETRY.

From the Friend.

The readers of "The Friend" will not have forgotten the brief notice, in No. 12 of the present volume, copied from another paper, relative to Margaret Miller Dairdson, or, as given in some of the papers, Davidson. Another account has since been published, with several additional specimens of her extraordinary poetical effusions, from which we select the following. It is certainly very pretty, and for a child of twelve years, the age at which it was written, very wonderful.

## INVOCATION TO SPRING.

Bend down from thy chariot, oh! beautiful Spring;  
Unfold like a standard, thy radiant wing,  
And beauty and joy in thy rosy path bring!  
We long for thy coming, sweet goddess of love!  
We watch for thy smile in the pure sky above!  
And we sigh for the hour when the wood birds shall sing,  
And nature shall welcome thee, beautiful Spring!  
How the lone heart will bound when thy presence draws near,  
As if borne from this world to some lovelier sphere!  
How the fond soul to meet thee, in rapture shall rise,  
When thy first blush has tinted the earth and the skies—  
Oh! send thy soft breath on the icybound stream,  
'Twill vanish—'twill melt like the forms in a dream—  
Released from the chain, like a child in its glee,  
'Twill flow on, unbounded, unfettered, and free!  
'Twill leap on in joy, like a bird on the wing,  
And hail thy sweet music, oh, beautiful Spring!  
But tread with thy foot, on the snow covered plain,  
And verdure and beauty shall smile in thy train!  
But whisper one word with thy seraph-like voice,  
And nature and earth shall rejoice! shall rejoice!  
Oh! Spring!—lovely goddess! what form can compare,  
With thine so resplendent, so glowing, so fair,  
What sunbeam so bright as thine own smiling eye,  
From whose glance the dark spirit of winter doth fly!  
A garland of roses is twined round thy brow—  
Thy cheek with the pale blush of evening doth glow,  
A mantle of green o'er thy soft form is spread,  
And the light winged zephyrus plays round thy head.  
Oh! could I but mount on the eagle's dark wing,  
And rest ever beside thee, Spring! beautiful Spring!  
While the thought of thy beauty inspireth my brain,  
I shrink from the terror of cold winter's reign—  
Methinks I behold thee—I hear thy soft voice—  
And in fulness of heart, I rejoice! I rejoice!  
But the cold wind is moaning, the drear snow doth fall,  
And nought but the shrieking blast echoes my call.  
Oh! heed the frail offering an infant can bring!  
Oh! grant my petition, Spring! beautiful Spring!  
N. Y. 1835.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Original.

## POWERS OF MEMORY—COMMON SCHOOLS.

Messrs. Editors:—One of your correspondents introduces an anecdote to illustrate some of his ideas respecting common schools, in substance like this; he had been teaching his boy certain lessons, and then told him to lay them on a shelf in his head, so that he could produce them when called for. He called for them some evenings afterward, and received this for answer, "The shelf has broken down with the load." Your correspondent seems to intend this as an argument against the length of our common schools; as though a protracted school must necessarily overburden the memory with its load of ideas.

Now, Messrs. Editors, I entirely doubt the truth of the reason assigned by the boy for not being able to produce the ideas called for.—That this boy possessed a good share of "mother wit" is evident from his answer; but that a few lessons, forming at most an evening's lecture, should so overburden his memory, I entirely doubt. Let a boy of common capacity at ten years of age, visit Boston for the first time in his life, and go to the Museum and other places calculated to create and gratify curiosity; and we will limit his stay to the short space of twenty-four hours, or one day; then

you shall ask him the particulars of all he saw during his absence, and I will venture, you would find the boy had impressed his memory with more objects than a common spelling book contains names for. That your correspondent may be satisfied of the truth of this, I ask him, the next time he goes to Hallowell, to seat himself with pen and ink, and write the name of every person and object he sees which he can recollect, and every thought which passes through his mind on his journey, which leaves an impression on his memory, and if he is not absolutely astonished at the results, then I am no Yankee for guessing.

That much of the time of most scholars, in our common schools, is absolutely squandered away, I readily grant. But this is seldom in consequence of the length of our schools. It is much with the mind as with the body respecting feeding; both need time to digest their food; and the time each needs is nearly the same.—When a person has eaten a hearty meal, he must quit the table for some other exercise and for the purpose of sleep, until the digestive organs have had time to execute their office; he will then find returning appetite calling for more, and if a supply is withheld too long the body grows feeble and soon dies for want of sustenance. Just so it is with the mind, especially in youth; it grasps knowledge with insatiable appetite. Not that it is always possessed of a healthy appetite for useful knowledge; but it is nevertheless, in pursuit of some kind. Shall we then, after sending our children a few weeks to school, keep them at home the remainder of the year to digest the few ideas acquired in this short time, or to acquire a better taste when a few hours might suffice for the first object; and as to the second, the longer the time spent for this purpose, the worse.

I have said much of the time of most children is squandered away at school, and this loudly calls for a remedy. And where or how, is it to be found?

The greatest difficulty, according to our view of the subject, is the want of a correct taste or appetite in our children for knowledge. That is, for the right kind. Now if this be the case, who is to blame? I answer, sometimes the teacher; but I believe not often. Sometimes the children are somewhat to blame; but I believe seldom the most so. The greatest blame I believe, is generally with the parents. No pains are taken or very little, by parents generally, to impress the minds of children suitably with the immense importance to them of acquiring useful knowledge in early life. And what little is done, is done in such a style that the infant mind turns from it with abhorrence. I said the infant mind, for I hold it to be all important to begin early to fix good impressions. And here mothers have it frequently in their power, to fix such a taste in their children, before they even attend a school, as shall extend its influence through all their after life.

The great secret in this business is, to make the acquisition of knowledge pleasant to the child. To do this we must adapt our instruction not only to the child's capacity, but we must consult its particular taste and fancy. An anecdote may illustrate this. A person once told me he learnt his little girl her letters by taking advantage of her attachment to a favorite cat. He told her she must learn her cat to read, and then opened the spelling book and pointing to the first letter said, there, go tell pussy what letter that is. This process so delighted the child, that she immediately repeated it, and proceeded with it by one letter at a time, until in a few days she could teach her cat without any assistance. Make your children believe that some object of their love is only to be gained by attention to their studies, and the child immediately associates the acquisition of knowledge with the attainment of the object of their love; and they

will pursue them with intense interest, and a zeal that never tires. J. H. J.

Peru, 1839.

## ICE.

Fahrenheit's thermometer, in the month of November, ranged below zero, and the cold was so intense before the ground was slightly covered with snow, after the copious and unusually warm rain from the south which, if it had continued for one hour more with the extreme pouring down of another single hour, would have overwhelmed and swept every thing before it in many places, that the highways at every short distance were cracked from side to side. Up to the 20th of December the ice had formed in the Merrimack river from twelve to fourteen inches in thickness. At sunrise on the mornings of the last Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday of the year the thermometer was each morning below zero. The New Year came in upon us like a lion: at day-light in the morning the thermometer at several places on the Main street in Concord stood twenty degrees below zero, and the degree of cold is stated to have been greater than it had been for the last three years.

The deep freezing has enabled several of our landlords, who know how to cater for good living, to put in their annual stock of ice in Dec. which is not usually done till February and March. The crystalline appearance of the blocks of ice taken from the Merrimack is beautiful—it is clear as amber, and pellucid as the finest glass.

The use of ice in the warm summer months as a matter of economy as well as luxury may be an object to the farmers. It may be made to preserve fresh meats from putrefaction and butter from rancidness: a small piece of ice applied to butter used for spreading upon new baked bread and cakes is worth half of the price of the article; and used with discretion it makes a glass of water, either sweetened or in a natural state, a most grateful beverage.

Three years ago we were at the expense of constructing an ice-house which cost nearly thirty dollars by digging deep in the ground and bricking up; and it was a source of mortification to find that other and better ice-houses than ours might be constructed for less than one third of that sum.—Any dry cellar will answer well for an ice-house; it need not even be stoned or boarded up on the inside so the ground about it remain firm. A roof is required turning off the rain. It is believed an ice-house above ground may be made as sure for its preservation as a cellar below. It should be banked about on each side. Tan would be a little better than earth as a non-conductor of heat. But in a common cellar where the air can be kept out, a considerable quantity of clean rye straw, with the ice closely imbedded therein, will be a sure preservative. The bottom of the cellar should be supplied with pieces of timber of six or eight inches in width and thickness placed about the same distance apart so as to prevent the contact of the ice with the ground. The covering need be no more than to prevent the ingress of water and preserve a uniform temperature.—*The Farmer's Monthly Visitor.*

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